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 Department of Library Special Collections
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 533 DENHARDT, Henry Herman, 1876-1937

1 box. 15 folders. 203 items. 1901-1935. Originals, photocopies, photograph.

1939.7.12

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Henry H. Denhardt, the son of William and Margaret (Geyger) Denhardt, was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 8 March 1876. He attended Ogden College in Bowling Green, earned a law degree from Cumberland College in Lebanon, Tennessee, and became a prosecutor and county judge in Bowling Green. He also published the *Bowling Green Times-Journal* in partnership with his brother, and served on the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University.

Denhardt joined the Kentucky National Guard in 1898 and commanded a volunteer company in the Spanish-American War. In 1916, he served with General John J. Pershing's campaign in Mexico against Pancho Villa. Entering federal service in August 1917, Denhardt served in France during World War I as an officer with a field artillery brigade. Back at home in 1921, after commanding troops who overcame rioting steel mill strikers in Newport, Kentucky, he was awarded the rank of brigadier general in the Kentucky National Guard.

After World War I, Denhardt had returned to legal practice in Bowling Green, but in 1923 was elected as Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky under Governor William J. Fields. In 1927, he sought the Democratic nomination for governor, but his differences with state leaders led to his defeat in the primary. Denhardt returned again to Bowling Green, where he continued to clash with local political figures. In 1931, he was shot and wounded by a Republican campaign worker. After his recovery, he served a four-year term (1931-1935) as Kentucky Adjutant General under Governor Ruby Laffoon. Denhardt then retired to his farm in Oldham County.

Denhardt and his wife, Elizabeth Glaze, who he married in 1905, had divorced in 1933. In 1936, Denhardt was charged with murder after his girlfriend, Verna Garr Taylor, was found shot to death on a roadside near LaGrange, Kentucky. He was tried for the crime, but the jury could not reach a verdict. On 20 September 1937, the eve of his retrial, Denhardt himself was shot to death by Verna's three brothers in an act of revenge. Denhardt was interred in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery. The brothers were acquitted at trial.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains materials relating mostly to the military career of Henry H. Denhardt. Also included are a few pieces of correspondence and personal items, and Denhardt's statement of his policies and objectives when seeking the Democratic nomination for Governor of Kentucky in 1927. A collection inventory is in Folder 1.

Denhardt's correspondence (Folder 2) consists of a letter to him advising of the sudden bankruptcy filing in 1905 of P.J. Potter's Sons, a Bowling Green bank; a letter of thanks from Governor Edwin P. Morrow after the quelling of the Newport, Kentucky riots; a letter from Governor William J. Fields relating to the budget of the Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College (now WKU); correspondence during Denhardt's term as Adjutant General regarding a soldier's claim of race riots in parts of Kentucky after the Spanish-American War; and a solicitation from Senator Huey Long seeking support for his "Share Our Wealth" program.

Invitations, programs and other personal items (Folder 3) include a certificate given by Denhardt as an officer of the Improved Order of Red Men; his acceptance into the Pendennis Club of Louisville, Kentucky; and a ticket for a wrestling match at Bowling Green's Armory, known today as Denhardt Hall.

Material relating to Denhardt's World War I military service includes his notes and instructional matter on field gunnery from the School of Fire for Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma (Folder 4). Also included (Folder 5) are correspondence, orders, regulations, personnel and equipment lists in connection with Denhardt's command in 1917-1918 that took him from Camp Shelby, Mississippi to Camp Merritt, New Jersey, then to an American Rest Camp in Romsey, England aboard the U.S.S. Plattsburg, and then to La Courtine, France, where he was made an officer in the 157th Field Artillery Brigade. The orders and regulations cover such matters as conduct and discipline, communications and reporting duties, control of equipment and supplies, mail, medical inspections, transport of troops by sea and rail, and organization of command. Affidavits from Denhardt and other soldiers (Folder 6) provide evidence regarding discrepancies in exchanges of equipment made at the time his men departed Camp Merritt for overseas duty. Denhardt's notes and lecture on conditions in France after World War I (Folders 7, 8, 10) cover matters such as the economy, industrial capacity, and food supply. Clippings (Folder 9) include those relating to Denhardt's work on a commission to revise the military code for the Kentucky National Guard. Materials from the Army War College in Washington, D. C. (Folder 10) include studies of the German and French war plans of 1914 and lectures on military strategy, foreign labor conditions, race as a factor in war, and an outline of the proceedings at a reception honoring the Class of 1925; also included in Folder 10 are Denhardt's reports for the College on post-World War I France and on counter-espionage, and his rough notes and memoranda on intelligence operations (Folder 11). Miscellaneous collected poems (Folder 12) include a 1928 Armistice Day greeting to Denhardt. Miscellaneous printed matter (Folder 13) includes military education pamphlets.

Denhardt's statement of his candidacy for Governor of Kentucky (Folder 14) outlines his positions on various public issues. Oversized items (Folder 15, shelved in C1,D15,#17) in this collection include a broadside explaining the "Share Our Wealth" program, political campaign materials, and a sketch plan relating to military operations at La Courtine, France.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Henry H. Denhardt	1901-1935	203 items
Folder 1	Inventory and associated data		4 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1905-1933	6 items
Folder 3	Greetings, invitations, programs, certificates	1903-1935	16 items
Folder 4	School of Fire for Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma – Notes and instructional materials	1916-1917	22 items
Folder 5	Orders, regulations, troop and equipment lists, etc. in connection with deployment to France	1917-1918	63 items
Folder 6	Affidavits in connection with accounting for equipment issued to men under Major Denhardt prior to embarkation for Europe	1918	16 items
Folder 7	Notes on France after World War I	n.d.	12 items
Folder 8	Notes on France after World War I	n.d.	9 items
Folder 9	Clippings, photograph, miscellaneous	1918-1927	6 items
Folder 10	Army War College course and lecture material; Class of 1925 reception	1923-1924	10 items
Folder 11	Notes and memoranda on organization of intelligence operations	1924	5 items
Folder 12	Miscellaneous poems	1926-1928	19 items
Folder 13	Printed matter	1901-1917	8 items
Folder 14	Statement of policies, etc. as candidate for Governor of Kentucky	1927	1 item
Folder 15	Oversized items list (shelved in C1,D15,#17)	1918-1934	6 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DENHARDT, Henry Herman, 1901-1935
533 1876-1937

Correspondence, military orders, and instructional materials relating to Henry H. Denhardt's World War I service as a field artillery officer and postwar training as an officer in the Kentucky National Guard. Includes a few personal and political items relating to Denhardt's campaign for Governor of Kentucky.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

American Federation of Labor – Relating to F10
Banks and banking – Bowling Green – P.J. Potter's Sons – Relating to F2
Birthday cards F3
Bradley, Claire, d. 1903? – Relating to F3
Butler family – Relating to F3
Butler, Thomas L., 1789-1879 – Relating to F3
Certificates – Improved Order of Red Men (Fraternal Organization) F3
Christmas cards F3
Clubs – Pendennis Club – Louisville F3
Denhardt, Henry Herman, 1876-1937 – Photograph F9
Easter cards F3
Elections and election campaigns – Relating to, 1927 F14-15
Fields, William Jason, 1874-1954 F2,15
Gompers, Samuel, 1850-1924 F10
Intelligence service – United States, 1924 – Relating to F10,11,15
Long, Huey Pierce, Jr., 1893-1935 F2
Long, Huey Pierce, Jr., 1893-1935 – Relating to F15
Military education – Relating to F4,10,13
Morrow, Edwin Porch, 1877-1935 F2
Morrow, Edwin Porch, 1877-1935 – Relating to F15
National Guard – Relating to, 1898, 1921 F2,9
National Guard Armory – Bowling Green – Relating to F3
Poetry F3
Race – Comments about, 1924 B10
Race relations – Relating to, 1898 F2
Strikes and lockouts – Newport – Relating to, 1921 F2

U.S. Army – Army War College – Washington, D.C. – Relating to F10
 U.S.S. Plattsburg – Relating to F5
 Valentines F3
 Voter registration – Warren County, 1913 F3
 Western Kentucky University – Washington's Birthday, 1935 F3
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Artillery F4,15
 World War I, 1914-1918 – France, 1914-1918 F5,10,15
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Germany, 1914 F10
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Military life F5,6
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Military training F4
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Postwar period – France, 1924 F7,8,10
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Soldiers from – Warren County
 Wrestling – Bowling Green – Relating to F3
 Zollicoffer, Felix Kirk, 1812-1862 – Relating to F3

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